

## Message Text

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17

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 A-01 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 SY-05

OC-05 CCO-00 /049 W

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P 050753Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6161

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 649

DEPT PASS TREASURY ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OFFICER  
STAN SHAPIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SECRETARY SIMON)

SUBJ: OFFICIAL TRAVEL OF SECRETARY SIMON

REF: STATE 25051

1. DAMASCUS CONTROL OFFICER FOR SIMON VISIT IS DCM  
BOB PELLETREAU. EMBASSY 24-HOUR PHONE NUMBERS ARE  
332315 AND 332814. HOME PHONE IS EXTENSION 53  
OFF EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD.

2. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, WHICH WILL BE AT  
DISPOSITION OF PARTY DURING VISIT, HAS DIRECT TELEPHONE  
(336087) AND CAN ALSO BE REACHED OFF EMBASSY  
SWITCHBOARD.

3. WILL APPRECIATE COMPLETE MANIFEST AS SOON AS  
AVAILABLE, BUT SARG WILL WANT TO KNOW ASAP WHETHER MRS.  
SIMON ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. GROUP CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND VISA WAIVER BEING  
REQUESTED. EMBASSY OFFICER WILL MEET MR. SHAPIRO  
AT AIRCRAFT TO RECEIVE PASSPORTS IF REQUIRED,  
BUT NORMALLY THEY WOULD REMAIN IN HIS CUSTODY.

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5. GROUND TRANSPORTATION. EMBASSY'S TWO HEAVY SEDANS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DELEGATIONS USE DURING VISIT. NORMAL SYRIAN PRACTICE IS TO PROVIDE OFFICIAL SEDANS FOR ENTIRE PARTY BOTH FOR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORT AND FOR USE DURING VISIT, WITH USER PAYING GRATUITY TO DRIVERS. WE PLAN TO ASK SYRIANS TO PROVIDE ABOUT FITEEN OFFICIAL CARS, WHICH WILL THEN BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE MEMBERS OF PARTY TO MUSEUM OR DAMASCUS BAZAAR DURING SECRETARY'S TALKS. ENGLISH SPEAKING ESCORTS ALSO ADVISABLE SINCE DRIVERS MUST STAY WITH CARS. ESTIMATED COST: 15 S.P. (S.P. 3.65 EQUALS \$1.00) PER DRIVER GRATUITY; 15 S.P. (\$4.11) PER HOUR PER ESCORT. PLEASE PROVIDE FISCAL DATA.

6. ASSUME ONLY HAND BAGGAGE WILL BE UNLOADED AT DAMASCUS. PLEASE CONFIRM.

7. WILL CLASSIFIED MATERIAL BE UNLOADED AT DAMASCUS? IF SO, SUGGEST IT BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY. PLEASE ADVISE.

8. RE PARA 16 REFTTEL, OUR THINKING IS THAT SECRETARY AND PARTY SHOULD PLAN TO USE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AS REST, REFRESHMENT AND CENTRAL CONTROL POINT DURING VISIT. IT HAS THREE GUEST BEDROOMS AND SEVERAL WASHROOMS. VISITORS CONTROL, MOTOR POOL DESPATCH ROOM WOULD BE LOCATED THERE. DELEGATION WILL ALSO HAVE USE OF OFFICE AT EMBASSY, SUPPORTED BY A CONTROL OFFICER AND SECRETARY. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS TENTATIVE, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND USSS. (SYRIANS MAY INSIST ON USE OF ONE OF GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSES.)

9. GIFTS. WILL ADVISE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH SYRIAN PROTOCOL.

10. TRAVEL TIMES. AIPORT TO AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE: 20-30 MINUTES. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE TO PRESIDENCY OR MINISTRIES OR EMBASSY: 5 MINUTES.

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AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE TO MUSEUM: 10 MINUTES.

AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE TO BAZAAR: 20 MINUTES.

11. DRINKING WATER CONSIDERED SAFE IN RESTAURANTS AND PRIVATE HOMES BUT NOT DOWNTOWN. VISITORS SHOULD AVOID UNCOOKED VEGETABLES AND OPEN AIR FOOD STANDS.

12. SINCE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, ASSUME  
FISCAL DATA WILL BE PROVIDED TO COVER OVERTIME PAY  
COSTS FOR STAFF REQUIRED TO SUPPORT VISIT.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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